

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1 - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A method for enhancing transduction efficiency of a recombinant virus into a cell, comprising contacting the recombinant virus with the cell, wherein the recombinant virus comprises a relaxin-encoding nucleotide sequence operatively linked to a regulatory sequence directing its expression and the relaxin protein expressed thereby enhances transduction of the recombinant virus.
28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the cell is a cell in a tissue composed of cells interconnected to each other by an extracellular matrix.
29. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein the tissue is a tumor tissue.
30. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the gene delivery system is a recombinant adenovirus, adeno-associated virus (AAV), retrovirus, lentivirus, herpes simplex virus or, vaccinia virus.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the gene delivery system is a recombinant adenovirus.
32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the recombinant adenovirus comprises a deleted E3 region and the relaxin-encoding nucleotide sequence is inserted into the deleted E3 region.
33. (New) A method for enhancing apoptosis in a tumor cell, comprising contacting a recombinant virus with the tumor cell, wherein the recombinant virus comprises a relaxin-encoding nucleotide sequence operatively linked to a regulatory sequence directing its expression, and the relaxin protein expressed thereby enhances apoptosis in the tumor cell.
34. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein the recombinant virus is a recombinant adenovirus, adeno-associated virus (AAV), retrovirus, lentivirus, herpes simplex virus, or vaccinia virus.
35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the recombinant virus is a recombinant adenovirus.
36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein the recombinant adenovirus comprises a deleted E3 region and the relaxin-encoding nucleotide sequence is inserted into the deleted E3 region.
37. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein the recombinant

adenovirus comprises an inactivated E1B 19 gene, an inactivated E1B 55 gene or an inactivated E1B 19/E1B 55 gene.

38. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein the recombinant adenovirus comprises an active E1A gene.